

In the Claims

1. A floor care cleaning apparatus, comprising:
 - a nozzle assembly having an intake opening;
 - a canister assembly connected to said nozzle assembly;
 - a suction generator carried on one of said nozzle assembly

5 and said canister assembly;

 - a dirt collection vessel carried on one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly; and
 - a control handle assembly pivotally connected to said canister assembly, said control handle assembly having an operating handle adjacent a first end and a carrying handle adjacent a second end, said control handle assembly being selectively displaceable between an operating position and a storage position.

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- 2. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 1 further including a hub on one of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly and a boss engaging said hub on the other of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly.

3. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 2 further including a first projection on one of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly and a first projection receiver on the other of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly.

4. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 3, wherein said first projection receiver includes a first stop engaging said first projection when said control handle assembly is in said operating position and a second stop engaging said first projection when said control handle assembly is in said storage position.

5. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 4, wherein said first projection receiver is a channel extending in a limited arc radially around an axis about which said control handle assembly pivots with respect to said canister assembly.

6. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 5, further including a locking mechanism for locking said control handle assembly in said operating position or said storage position.

7. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 6, wherein said locking mechanism includes a guide track carried on one of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly and a displaceable latch received in said guide track.

8. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 7, further including a first latch receiver receiving said latch when said control handle assembly is in said operating position and a second latch receiver receiving said latch when said control handle assembly is in said storage position, said first and second latch receivers being carried on the other of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly.

9. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 8, further including a means for biasing said latch into one of said first and second latch receivers.

10. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 9, further including a slot carried by said hub and a retaining clip received in said slot to retain said control handle assembly and said canister assembly together.

11. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 9, further including a second projection on one of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly and a second projection receiver on the other of said canister assembly and said control handle assembly.

12. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 11, wherein said second projection receiver includes a first rib engaging said second projection when said control handle assembly is in said operating position and a second rib engaging said second projection when said control handle

assembly is in said storage position.

13. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 12, further including an aperture in said hub substantially on said axis.

14. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 13, further including an electrical power cord extending through said aperture.

15. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 12, wherein said first projection is carried on said control handle assembly.

16. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 15, wherein said second projection is carried on said control handle assembly.

17. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operating handle is a hand grip.

18. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein said carrying handle comprises a portion of a loop.

19. The floor care cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein said control handle pivots relative to said canister assembly about an axis A, said axis A being a distance D_1 from a bottom of said floor cleaning apparatus and said operating handle includes a stabilizer, said stabilizer

being a distance D_2 from said axis A wherein D_2 is less than D_1 by about 0.5 to about 2.0 cm.

20. The floor cleaning apparatus of claim 19, wherein at least one wheel is carried on an axle on said canister assembly and said stabilizer is spaced rearwardly from said axle by a distance of about four inches when said control handle is in said storage position.

21. A floor cleaning apparatus, comprising:
a housing;
a suction generator and a dirt collection vessel carried on said housing;
a control handle assembly pivotally connected to said housing, said control handle assembly including a hand grip for manipulating said floor cleaning apparatus during cleaning and a stabilizer for engaging said floor when storing said floor cleaning apparatus.

22. A method for preventing the inadvertent tipping of a floor cleaning apparatus, comprising:

providing a control handle assembly for said floor cleaning apparatus that is displaceable between operating and storage positions; and
5 configuring said handle so that a portion thereof is adjacent the floor when said control handle assembly is in said storage position whereby engagement of said portion with the floor prevents tipping over of said floor care cleaning apparatus.